



Nunamta Aulukestai
"Caretakers of Our Land"
PO Box 735
Dillingham, AK 99576
907-842-4404
nunamtaexdir@gmail.com
www.nunamta.org

March 27, 2013

Honorable President Barack Obama
Office of the White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Nunamta Aulukestai ("Nunamta") comprises directors appointed by ten tribes and ten Native Corporations, including Ekwok Village Council, New Koliganek Village Council, Clarks Point Village Council, Aleknagik Traditional Council, Curyung Tribal Council, New Stuyahok Traditional Council, Manakotak Village Council, Togiak Traditional Council, Levelock Village Council, Twin Hills Village Council, Ekwok Natives Limited, Koliganek Natives Limited, Saguyak Inc., Aleknagik Natives Limited, Choggiung Limited, Stuyahok Limited, Manakotak Natives Limited, Togiak Natives Limited, Levelock Natives Limited and, Twin Hills Native Corporation. Nunamta represents approximately 6,014 tribal members and 4,775 shareholders from the Bristol Bay region who rely on the land, fish, wildlife, cultural resources and waters of the region for subsistence and their cultural way of life. Since its founding in 2006, Nunamta has actively advocated to protect the natural resources of Bristol Bay from the threats to those resources, namely offshore oil and gas development in Bristol Bay and the proposed Pebble Mine.

Nunamta has worked to give the people of Bristol Bay a voice in the proposed development of extractive industries that can severely impact our subsistence and cultural way of life. For us, our food security is not something that should be jeopardized or risked over an extractive industry that offers short term employment but long term monitoring of contaminants into millennium. Nunamta supports the efforts of our directors who with their own elected tribal governments in their community formally petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action under the Clean Water Act, Section 404C.

We support EPA's Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and actively worked in June, 2012 with EPA staff in six Bristol Bay communities to make sure that the voices of Bristol Bay participated and testified during the initial round of hearings to provide in their own words why they support the draft BB Watershed Assessment. We participated in the public comment period during the

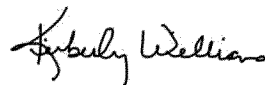
Peer Review stage of the watershed assessment. We've met many times with EPA staff and our congressional delegation to get a sense of when the watershed assessment would become a finalized document within EPA. We've heard from EPA that the watershed assessment would go to the peer review members and once again go out for public comment. We support EPA's efforts to have a scientifically sound document that goes beyond fault, however we request that the watershed assessment be released for public comment as soon as possible in order to see the public comment period wrapped up before we start the busy summer season of fishing.

We not only work with the federal government to protect our lands and waters for future generations but watched with disbelief and the shaking of our heads as the State of Alaska started a round of meetings in the region on the draft Bristol Bay Area Plan. With an advance notice of five days and notice that public comment would be taken, the people of Bristol Bay attended and discovered that their public comments would not go into the official record. Another sad reminder that we can't rely on the State of Alaska to listen, act in good faith, nor follow their own rules in their own public process. This adds to the list of reasons why the people of Bristol Bay need EPA to finalize the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and move to ensure that Bristol Bay's habitat is protected.

Sincerely,



Luki Akelkok, Sr.
Chairman



Kimberly Williams
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Bob Perciasepe, Acting EPA Administrator
Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality
Governor Parnell, State of Alaska